

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 920 880 334 USDATE OF MAILING 12/14/01Our Case No. 9281-4258  
Client Reference No. N US00121

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 Kiyoshi Sato et al. )  
 Serial No. To Be Assigned )  
 Filing Date: Herewith )  
 For: Thin-Film Magnetic Head With )  
 Narrowed Track Width and Method for )  
 Making Same )

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

## In the Claims

Please rewrite Claim 1 as follows:

A1  
CONT'D

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1. (Amended) A thin-film magnetic head comprising:
  - a lower core layer;
  - a gap layer formed on the lower core layer, with a lower pole layer therebetween;
  - an upper pole layer formed on the gap layer;
  - an upper core layer formed on the upper pole layer; and
  - a Gd-defining layer for defining the depth in the height direction of the joint surface between the gap layer and the upper pole layer, the Gd-defining layer being formed on the lower core layer toward the back in the height direction from a surface facing a recording medium,